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Imagery analysis report

Iraq/Iran Military Summary

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NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
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IRAQ/IRAN MILITARY SUMMARY, [REDACTED] (S)

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1. (S/D) This report updates the most recent¹ in a series of imagery-derived reports on the Iraq/Iran conflict and covers the period [REDACTED] This report discusses deployed ground forces in the forward areas, rear garrison units (Figure 1), airfields, naval bases, commercial shipping, POL facilities, and related activity in Iraq, Iran, and Saudi Arabia. Military unit designators and subordination (where used) are derived from collateral sources.² Acronyms and abbreviations are defined in a glossary at the end of the report. Additional reports will be issued as the situation changes.

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OVERVIEW

2. (S/D) Imagery of the forward areas of conflict provided evidence that a major battle had occurred in the Susangerd area of Iran, although the positions of both forces have remained relatively unchanged since December 1980 (Figure 2). There was also some reinforcement of forces on both sides, including the introduction of Iraqi T-72 tanks in the forward area of conflict. Iranian forces still controlled Ahvaz. Extensive flooding was seen throughout the Ahvaz/Susangerd area. Limited coverage of Dezful and the Qasr-E Shirin areas showed little or no change in the force dispositions.

3. (S/D) Limited coverage of Iraqi rear garrison areas showed that Iraqi units which had departed garrison prior to or since the start of the war remained out of garrison and that additional units were departing garrison in the Baghdad area. Units remaining in garrison continued to disperse equipment throughout their garrison areas. Iraqi forces had constructed a floating-deck bridge across the Shatt Al Arab near Al Basrah. Major elements of the Iranian 16th Armor Brigade departed their garrisons at Hamadan, while training continued in the Tehran area.

4. (S/D) FISHBED aircraft were deployed to newly operational Qayyarah Airfield in northern Iraq. A continued decrease of F-4 aircraft was observed in the Tehran area, and a decrease in Iranian helicopters was observed at Esfahan.

5. (S/D) There was limited coverage of Iraqi naval bases. Naval activity in Iran was at a low but constant level.

6. (S/D) Construction continued on the large berm at one Iraqi POL facility, while initial construction of a berm was observed at another. A Hawk SAM site was newly occupied near the Khark Island POL facility in Iran.

7. (S/D) Related activity included heavy vehicle traffic at Zakhu on the Iraqi/Turkish border; heavy rail traffic at Jolfa on the Iranian/Soviet border; the relocation of an AW radar site in Iran; the continued resupply of Iraq through Saudi Arabian ports on the Red Sea; and the presence of Iraqi, Soviet, Cuban, and Kuwaiti merchant ships in Jordan.

GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY**Iraq/Iran Forward Areas****Susangerd/Ahvaz Area**

8. (S/D) Indications that a major battle had taken place in the Susangerd area were evident on imagery of late January and early February. Craters were seen throughout the area south and southeast of Susangerd, and evidence of heavy shelling was seen at a former Iraqi tank company position. Evidence of heavy shelling was also seen in the Iranian-occupied area east-southeast of Susangerd and south of the Karkheh River.

9. (S/D) Additional significant activity seen in the Susangerd/Ahvaz area included the presence of an Iraqi T-72-equipped tank unit in the town of Huveyzeh, south-southeast of Susangerd; the presence of major Iranian reinforcements in the area east-southeast of Susangerd; and the advancement of Iranian forces further south, in the area southeast of Susangerd, where they were in proximity to the Iraqi forces in the area. Evidence of increased flooding throughout the entire Ahvaz/Susangerd area was also observed.

10. (S/D) Iraqi forces in the Susangerd area were deployed northwest of the city; south-southwest of the city, in the Huveyzeh area; and southeast of the city. In the northwest, Iraqi forces deployed between 1 and 7 nautical miles (nm) from Susangerd consisted of two tank companies, two mechanized infantry companies, and a supply and transport unit. Iraqi forces in the Huveyzeh area, 7.5 nm south-southwest of Susangerd [REDACTED] included one tank company, one mechanized infantry company, two field-deployed artillery batteries, one air defense battery, and a supply and transport unit. A T-72-equipped tank company (Figure 3), a mechanized infantry company, and elements of a divisional engineer battalion were in the area [REDACTED] but had departed [REDACTED] The only T-72-equipped unit in the Iraqi army is an armor brigade of the 10th Armor Division which was last observed 65 nm northwest of Ahvaz in Iraq [REDACTED] No evidence of recent fighting was seen in the Huveyzeh area. Iraqi forces 8 nm southeast of Susangerd consisted of a tank brigade, a mechanized infantry battalion, two artillery battalions, and an AA battalion. A former Iraqi tank company position in this area (Figure 4) had sustained substantial damage. Track activity suggested that most of the unit in this position had been destroyed by heavy shelling.

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11. (S/D) Iranian forces in defense of Susangerd, deployed north of the Karkheh River north and east of Susangerd, included two tank companies, one tank platoon, two mechanized infantry companies, one mechanized infantry platoon, one M-107 SP gun battalion, one M-109A1 SP gun battery, and one FA battery. Iranian forces south of the river, extending from Susangerd to a point 11 nm to the southeast, consisted of one tank battalion, two tank companies, two mechanized infantry battalions, one mechanized infantry company, four M-109A1 SP gun battalions, one M-109A1 SP gun battery, one reconnaissance platoon, one infantry unit, and one AA battery (Figure 5). The four M-109A1 SP gun battalions, along with a mechanized infantry battalion, represent reinforcements which had arrived in the area between early December and late January. These SP gun battalions probably are the divisional artillery of an Iranian armor division. Heavy fighting had occurred in this area, as evidenced by numerous impact craters near the Iranian SP gun units along the Karkheh River.

12. (S/D) Iraqi forces in the Ahvaz area consisted of one tank battalion, two tank companies, three mechanized companies, and two FA battalions deployed between 20 nm west and 13 nm southwest of the city. An engineer unit was involved in road construction in the area west of Ahvaz.

13. (S/D) Iranian forces deployed southwest of Ahvaz in defense of the city consisted of one tank company, one tank platoon, two mechanized infantry companies, two mechanized infantry platoons, two M-109A1 SP gun battalions, and one M-109A1 SP gun battery. Iranian forces northwest of Ahvaz consisted of one mechanized infantry platoon, one M-107 SP gun battery, and one M-109A1 SP gun battery. In the Hamidiyyeh area, Iranian forces consisted of one tank company, two mechanized infantry platoons, one M-107 SP gun battery, and a field logistics supply point.

14. (S/D) Iranian units remaining in garrison at Ahvaz Barracks Storage Depot Brigade and Division Headquarters [] consisted of elements of two tank companies, a mechanized infantry battalion, two 155mm SPG batteries, and an engineer company. Several BMK-90 powerboats, GSPs, and PMP sections remained dispersed at the probable associated engineering depot 3.2 nm north of the barracks. Ahvaz Airfield [] remained operational in support of Iranian forward combat units. Air order-of-battle consisted of one C-130, one F-27, one Falcon, four probable AH-1 helicopters, five AB-214 helicopters, one Jet Ranger helicopter, and two probable derelict helicopters.

15. (S/D) The most extensive flooding was still in the areas northwest, west, and southwest of Ahvaz. Of primary importance, the previously reported large antitank trench which had been constructed in the northwestern sector of Ahvaz [] appeared to be a manmade canal to divert the Karun River, thus allowing the Iranians to flood the area southwest of the city (Figure 6). The canal/trench extended 8 nm from the Karun River in the north to the west-southwest Ahvaz/Khorramshahr road. Sluice gates have been installed between the Karun River and the canal/trench. An additional canal/trench segment has also been constructed parallel to and north of the Ahvaz/Khorramshahr road, 7 nm southwest of Ahvaz. Flooding was also evident in the Susangerd area, where a canal had been constructed 4 nm southwest of Susangerd to facilitate flooding, and the Iranians apparently were pumping water out of the Karkheh River 3 nm northeast of the city. Additional flooding was evident between Susangerd and Ahvaz.

16. (S/D) Iranian antitank ditches remained west and northwest of Ahvaz.

Dezful Area

17. (S/D) Iraqi and Iranian units concentrated between 10 and 15 nm west of Dezful have remained essentially unchanged [] (Figure 7). One Iraqi tank brigade and elements of a mechanized infantry brigade remained 13.5 nm west of the city []

18. (S/D) Iranian forces which were still west of the Karkheh River consisted of two tank companies, one mechanized infantry company, and an infantry unit (the area where an FA battery was identified []). No major movement of Iranian forces was observed on limited coverage of the east bank [] Iranian units on the east bank of the Karkheh River included one tank platoon, 2.5 nm north of Dezful Highway Strip [] and one SP gun battery, 4.5 nm north of the strip. A possible reconnaissance platoon, observed at the western end of the strip [] had departed by [] An SP gun battery was 5 nm southeast of the highway strip []

Qasr-E Shirin Area

19. (S/D) No Iraqi force deployment areas were imaged during the reporting period. In the Iranian force deployment areas, only the Sar-E Pol-E Zahab Barracks and Brigade Headquarters and Depot [] area was imaged. Although some repositioning of units was observed, no significant changes were observed in the area.

Rear Areas

20. (S/D) Coverage of Iraqi rear garrison areas during the month indicated that most of the combat units which had departed their garrisons prior to or since the start of the conflict were still out of garrison. In mid-January, equipment was seen departing a barracks area in Baghdad, and additional armor and mechanized infantry units had departed from two other barracks areas. Equipment dispersal continued to be evident during the month at garrison areas in Kirkuk, Buzurgan, Balikayan, As Sulaymaniyah, Dibs, and

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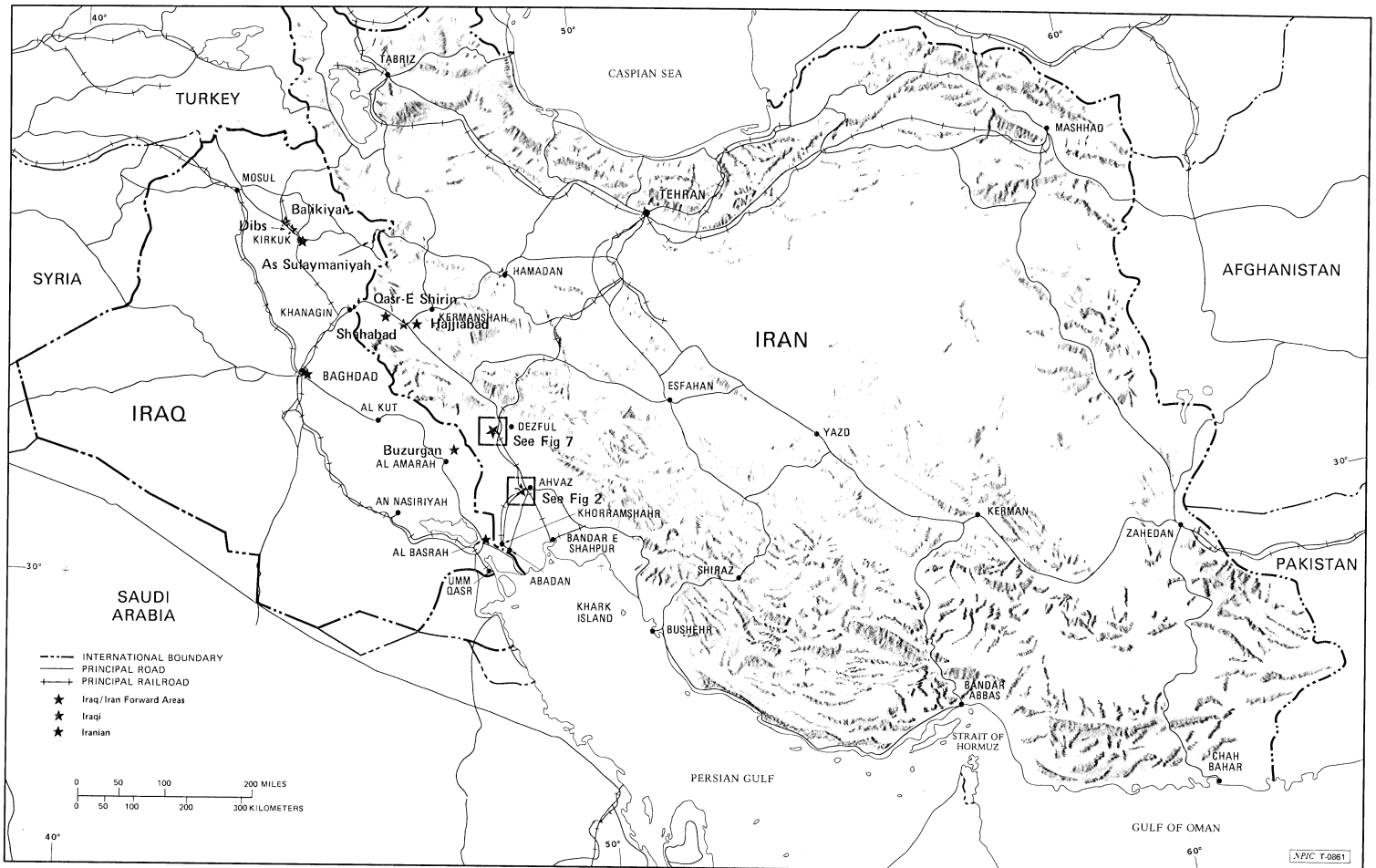


FIGURE 1. IRAQI/IRANIAN GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY



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Baghdad. In the Al Basrah area by mid-January, the Iraqis had erected a floating-deck bridge with a removable center section across the Shatt Al Arab (Figure 8).

21. (S/D) In Iran, coverage of rear area garrisons was limited. However, mobilization of Iranian forces in the Hamadan area continued, training activity was evident in the Hajjiabad and Tehran areas, and increased air defense activity was seen at Shahabad.

Iraq

22. (S/D) Movement of Iraqi equipment out of garrison was evident at Baghdad Barracks School Corps Brigade Headquarters Depot Rashid [] during the month. A convoy of nine 60-ton trailers (five with medium tanks) was parked on a main road in the facility. Track activity indicated that the tanks had recently been unloaded. 25X1

23. (S/D) Additional movement of Iraqi units out of garrison was also evident. Two tank battalions from Baghdad Barracks School and Depot Abu Ghuravb [] and a mechanized infantry company from Baghdad Barracks Daudiya North [] had departed their garrisons by mid-January. 25X1
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Iran

24. (S/D) Major elements (at least one and probably two tank battalions, plus two mechanized infantry companies) of the armor brigade of the 16th Armor Division at Hamadan Barracks and Brigade Headquarters [] apparently departed garrison [] One tank company and two mechanized infantry companies were all that remained in garrison. 25X1

25. (S/D) Training observed during the reporting period included a mechanized infantry company training adjacent to Hajjiabad Barracks and Brigade Headquarters [] and 500 people in formation on a parade field at Tehran Barracks Imperial Guard Saltanabad [] 25X1
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26. (S/D) A battery of four ZSU-23/4 SPAA guns had been deployed around Shahabad Barracks Depot and Brigade Headquarters [] during the month. 25X1

AIR ACTIVITY

27. (S/D) FISHBED aircraft had been deployed to a newly operational airfield in Iraq. In Iran, activity appeared to be normal at both F-14 bases, while a steady decrease in F-4s was continuing at another. Also, there was a decrease in helicopters at Esfahan, and the two remaining Rapier SAM sites at Sharokhi AB Airfield [] were removed (Figure 9). 25X1

Iraq

28. (S/D) Two FISHBEDs and three helicopters had been deployed to Qayyarah Airfield West [] Evidence of probable aircraft deployment and upgrading of the operational status of this previously nonoperational airfield was observed [] with the deployment of four AA sites and four GCI sites. 25X1
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Iran

29. (S/D) In Iran, activity at the F-14 bases, Shiraz International Airfield [] and Khatami AB Airfield [] appeared to be normal. There was, however, a continued decrease in the number of F-4 aircraft at Tehran/Mehrabad International Airfield [] where only 12 F-4s were seen [] Twenty-four F-4s had been at the airfield [] and 15 had been present [] 25X1
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30. (S/D) There was a decrease in the number of helicopters at Esfahan Airfield [] during the reporting period [] only 30 CH-47s, 132 AH-1/AB214s, and 27 Jet Rangers were present. Usually, 40 CH-47s and 188 UH-1-type helicopters (AH-1/AB-214 and Jet Ranger) are present. The helicopters at the airfield [] continued to be dispersed in and around the installation. 25X1
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NAVAL ACTIVITY

31. (S/D) Limited coverage of Iraqi naval facilities precluded determining the level of Iraqi naval activity. In Iran, naval activity at two facilities remained at a low but constant level (Figure 9).

Iran

32. (S/D) Continued activity related to a probable task force being used to patrol the Straits of Hormuz was observed at Bandar Abbas Port Facilities Suru [] during the reporting period. [] vessels absent from the port at least once included one Vosper MK-5 25X1
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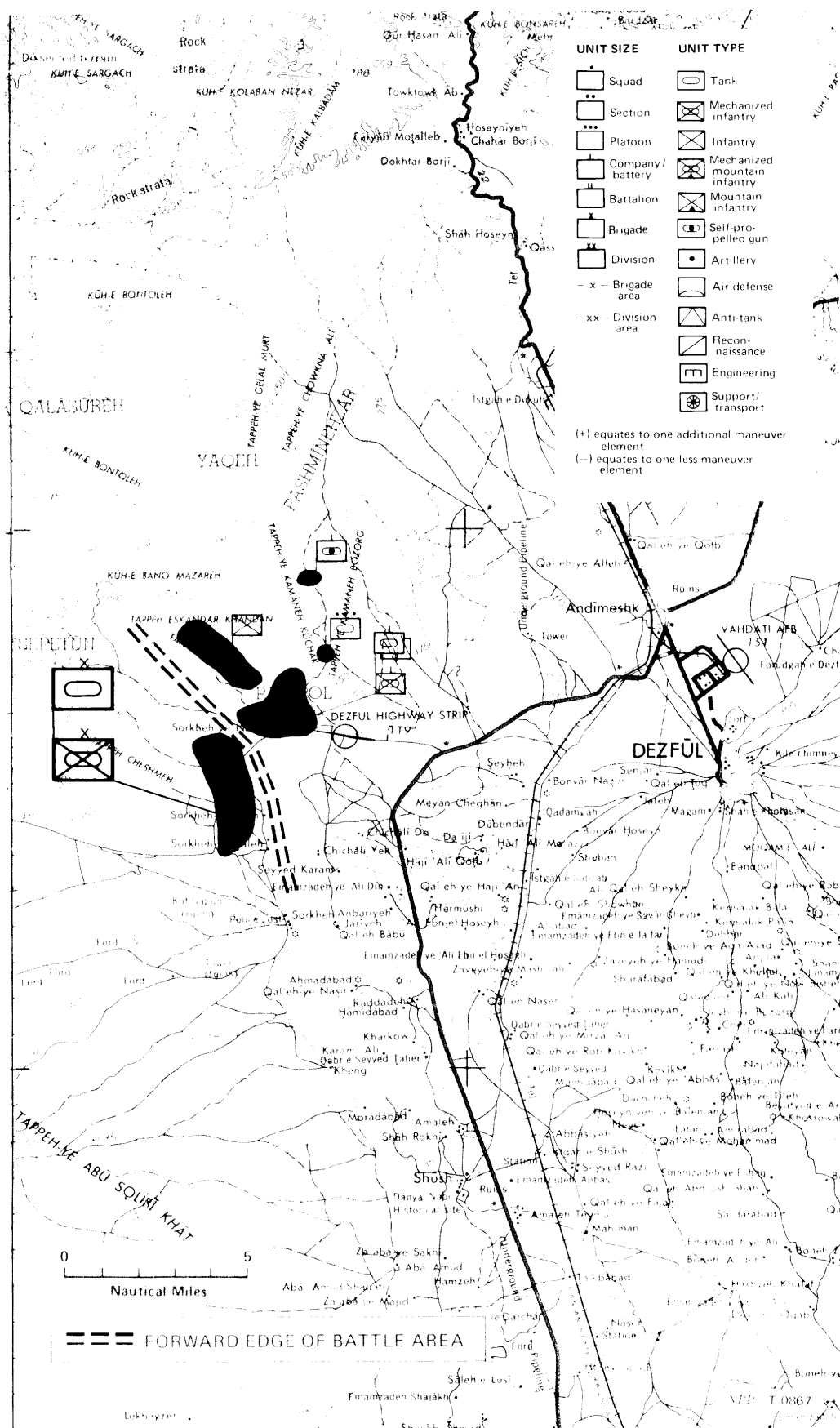


FIGURE 7. GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY, DEZFUL AREA, IRAN, 30 JANUARY

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FFG (SAAM), one PGM-71 PC, one MK-III PB, one PBR, two Hengham LSTs, one LCU, one Bandar Abbas AOR, and one Kangan AWT. Vessels observed in port throughout the reporting period included one Battle DDG, two Sumner DDGs, two Vosper MK-5 FFGs (SAAM), one PGM-71 PC, five MK-III PBs, four PBRs, two LCUs, one Bandar Abbas AOR, one Kangan AWT, one Amphion AR, one Michelangelo APB, and one ARD-T. Repair facilities at the port continued to be active, with one Vosper MK-5, one PGM-71 PC, and one Hengham LST in one of the two graving docks during the period.

33. (S/D) Only one PF-103 PG, one PGM-71 PC, and one MK-III PB were absent from Bushehr Naval Base [] at any given time []. Vessels in port throughout the reporting period included two PF-103 PGs, seven La Combattante-IIB PTGs, one PGM-71 PC, and eight MK-III PBs. In addition, one MSC-268 MSC and one Cape MSI were observed in port on []. Minesweepers are not usually observed at this naval base and probably came from the naval facility at Bandar-E Shahpur Port Facilities [].

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COMMERCIAL SHIPPING

34. (S/D) Commercial port facilities in Iraq and Iran were imaged during the reporting period (Figure 9). In Iraq, there was only a minor repositioning of vessels at Al Basrah on the Shatt Al Arab. In comparison, there was a continued high level of activity at the Iranian port facilities in the Strait of Hormuz. However, no military cargo was seen at the ports in either country.

Iran

35. (S/D) The loss of access to the Iranian ports at Abadan and Khorramshahr has resulted in continued congestion at Bandar Abbas Port Facilities Suru and Shah Bandar Abbas Port Facility [] in the Strait of Hormuz. In addition, a high level of activity continued to be observed at Chah Bahar Port Facilities [].

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36. (S/D) [] two tankers, ten dry bulk carriers, seven general cargo ships, and six coastal freighters were observed offloading at Bandar Abbas Port Facilities Suru. No empty berthing spaces were observed at the facility at any time during the period, and a backup of general cargo ships and coastal freighters continued to be observed in the holding area outside the port facility.

37. (S/D) The situation at Shah Bandar Abbas was similar. One dry bulk carrier, 12 general cargo ships, two special-purpose transports, and four coastal freighters were observed offloading at the quay. In addition, one dry bulk carrier, eight general cargo ships, and one coastal freighter were seen in the protective anchorage offloading their cargo onto barges rather than waiting for quay space to become available.

38. (S/D) At Chah Bahar, where there are no facilities to assist in offloading, small boats continued to bring in supplies which were stacked in open storage on the pier.

39. (S/D) Activity was also observed at two Iranian ports in the northern Persian Gulf during the reporting period. At Bushehr Port Facilities [] five general cargo ships and three coastal freighters were observed offloading []. Four general cargo ships and one coastal freighter were at Bandar-E Shahpur Port Facilities [] the only date it was imaged.

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POL FACILITIES

40. (S/D) Twenty-six Iraqi POL-related facilities were observed—one in the north, 11 near Kirkuk, two west of Khanagin, four north of Al Amarah, and seven in the southeastern part of the country. Construction of protective berms was underway at two installations. No new damage was observed at any Iraqi POL-related facilities. Twenty Iranian POL-related facilities were imaged—one at Tabriz, two near Tehran, one west of Kermanshah, one at Esfahan, and 15 in the southwestern part of the country. No new damage was observed at any of these facilities. Air defense activity was observed at Khark Island (Figure 9).

Iraq

41. (S/D) Construction continued on the large protective earthen berm at Kirkuk Petroleum Refinery and Storage [] during the reporting period (Figure 10). Initial berm construction was evident at Northern Rumailah Central Gas-Oil Separation Plant [] during the month.

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Iran

42. (S/D) At Khark Island, near the POL facility, Khark Island Hawk Site 9 A34-35 [] was occupied for the first time. Also at Khark Island, tankers continued to load at both the Azerpad (sea island) oil-loading terminal and the Iran Pan-American Oil Company sea-loading terminal.

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SECRET**OTHER**

43. (S/D) In Iraq, heavy vehicular traffic continued to be observed at the Iraqi/Turkish border-crossing point at Zakhu. In Iran, a high level of rail traffic continued to be observed at the Iranian/Soviet border-crossing point at Jolfa. No military equipment was seen in either area. Also in Iran, it was determined that there was a possible exchange of radar equipment between the facilities at Zahedan and Chah Bahar. Elsewhere, arms shipments, probably for Iraq, continued to come through the Saudi Arabian port at Tuwwal.

Iran

44. (S/D) There was a possible exchange of radar equipment between Chah Bahar EOB Site [] and Zahedan International Airfield []. The probable Marconi S-330 AW radar and a probable height-finder radar identified at Chah Bahar [] may have come from Zahedan International Airfield, where two radars of that type had been removed []. It was also determined that [] the AN/TPS-43 AW radar had been removed from the Chah Bahar facility. This may be the same equipment which was identified at Zahedan International Airfield on []. If this was in fact an exchange of equipment, it was probably done to improve the Iranian AW capability in southeastern Iran.

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Saudi Arabia

45. (S/D) The Iraqi resupply activity which was observed at the Saudi Arabian port at Tuwwal during the mid-December to early-January time period continued during this reporting period. One hundred and seven of the heavy-lift transporters which had arrived at the port [] departed []. At least 48 of the transporters were carrying canvas-covered medium tanks. Six additional transporters carrying Roland I mobile SAMs had departed []. Six additional Roland I mobile SAMs arrived at the port []. These Rolands were on transporters which had arrived, along with 62 trucks, [].

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46. (S/D) Possibly related to these arms shipments was the presence of three probable Iraqi Wessex helicopters at Badanah Airfield [] Saudi Arabia, on 27 January. These helicopters may be providing security/support for the transfer of these arms shipments from Tuwwal into Iraq.

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Jordan

47. (S/D) A probable Iraqi merchant ship, three Soviet arms carriers, four Cuban merchant ships, and a possible Kuwaiti merchant ship were among an unusually large number of merchant vessels which continued to berth in the roadstead at Aqabah Port Facilities [] and Aqabah Port Facilities South [].

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48. (S/D) [] 62 merchant ships, including two Soviet Rostok-class arms carriers, two possible Cuban merchant ships, and one probable Iraqi Alkinoi-class merchant ship, were in port. On partial coverage of the main port areas [] 51 merchant ships, including the same two Soviet Rostok-class arms carriers, two different Cuban merchant ships, one Soviet Murom-class arms carrier, and a possible Kuwaiti Poltava-class merchant ship, were present. No significant military cargo was observed on either date.

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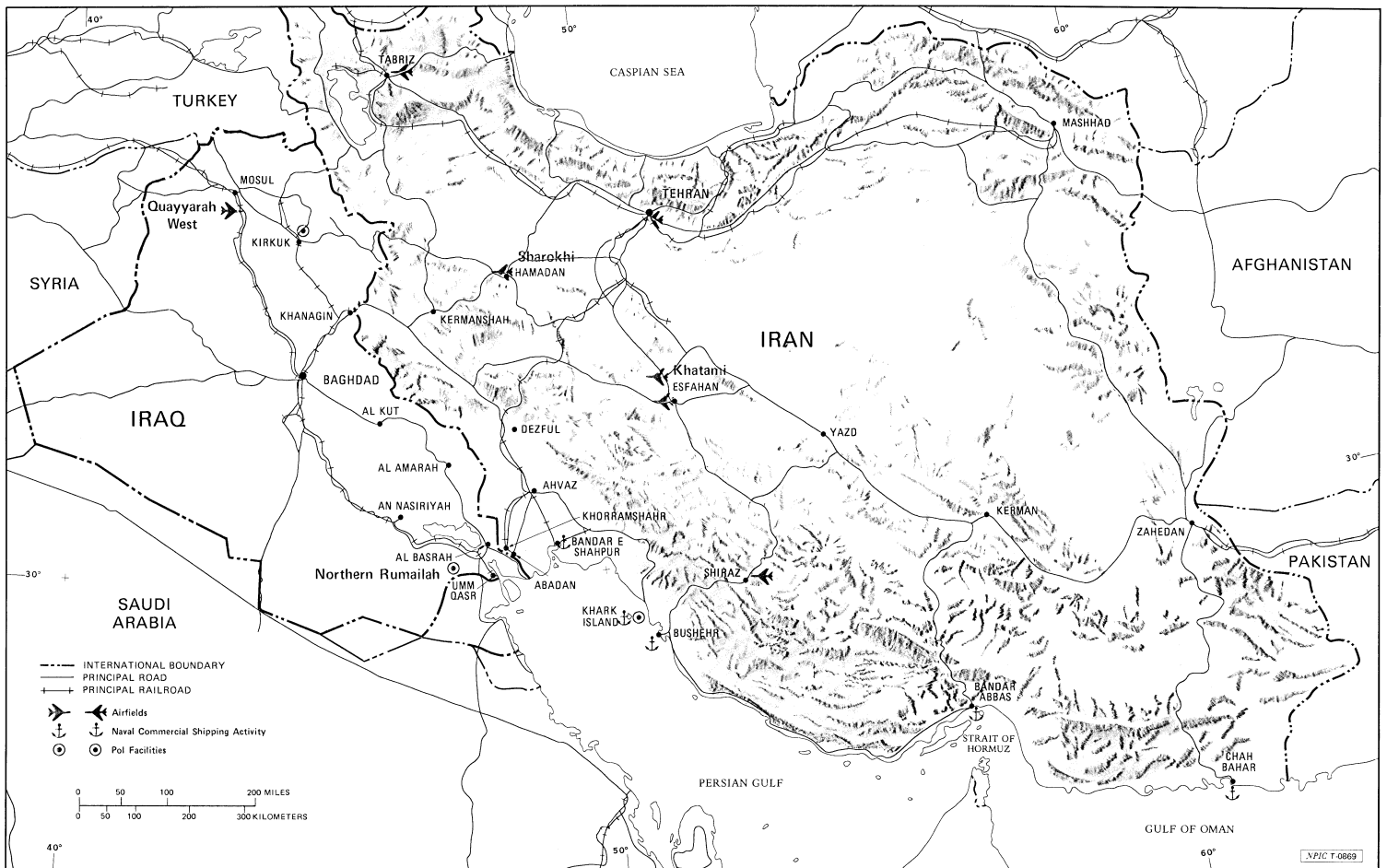


FIGURE 9. IRAQI/IRANIAN AIR, NAVAL, COMMERCIAL SHIPPING, AND POL FACILITIES

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MAPS OR CHARTS

DoD. Joint Operations Graphics, Various Sheets (UNCLASSIFIED, Distribution Restricted)

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC. Z-20003/81. IAR-0002/81. Iraq/Iran Military Summary, 11 December 1980-7 January 1981 (S), 9 Jan 81 (SECRET)

2. DIA. DDB-1100-1Z-80, Ground Order of Battle: Iraq (U), Jan 80 (SECRET)

DIA. DDB-1100-1R-78, Ground Order of Battle: Iran (U), Aug 78 (SECRET)

GLOSSARY OF
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

This glossary in its entirety is UNCLASSIFIED

AA	Antiaircraft	
AAA	Antiaircraft artillery	
AD	Air defense	
AOR	Replenishment oiler	
APB	Barracks ship	
APC	Armored personnel carrier	25X1
AR	Repair ship	
ARD-D	Floating drydock	
ARD-T	Auxiliary repair dock	
AW	Air warning	
AWT	Water carrier	
AX	Training ship	
CP	Command post	
DD	Destroyer	
DDG	Guided missile destroyer	
DIW	Dead in the water	25X1
EW	Early warning	25X1
FA	Field artillery	25X1
FFG	Guided missile frigate	25X1
GCI	Ground controlled intercept	
GSP	Heavy folding ponton ferry	25X1
LCMA	Medium landing craft (air cushion)	
LCM	Medium landing craft	
LCU	Utility landing craft	
LSM	Medium amphibious assault landing ship	
LST	Amphibious vehicle landing ship	
MRL	Multiple rocket launcher	
MSC	Coastal minesweeper	
MSF	Fleet minesweeper	
MSI	Inshore minesweeper	
NM	Nautical miles	
PB	Patrol boat	
PBA	Patrol boat (air cushion)	
PBR	River/roadstead patrol boat	
PC	Patrol craft	
PCL	Small submarine chaser	
PCS	Submarine chaser	
PG	Patrol escort	
PGM	Motor gunboat	
PMP	Heavy folding ponton bridge	
POL	Petroleum, oil, and lubricant	
PT	Torpedo boat	
PTG	Missile attack boat	
RTP	Rail-to-road transfer point	
RO/RO	Roll-on/roll-off	
SAM	Surface-to-air missile	
SP	Self-propelled	
SPAA	Self-propelled antiaircraft	
SPG	Self-propelled gun	
SSM	Surface-to-surface missile	
TEL	Transporter-erector-launcher	
TELR	Transporter-erector-launcher radar	
TMM	Truck-mounted bridge	
VLCC	Very large crude carrier	

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